

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

<b>DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION</b>	Number: 3130-008
SUBJECT: Definition of Major Information Technology Investments	DATE: February 27, 2015
	OPI: Office of the Chief Information Officer

1. PURPOSE

This Departmental Regulation (DR) provides policy guidance regarding major information technology (IT) investments for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [Circular A-11](#), *Preparation, Submission, and Execution of the Budget*.

2. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELLATION

This policy supersedes DR 3130-008, *Definition of Major Information Technology Investments*, dated May 29, 2013.

3. BACKGROUND

OMB, in OMB Circular A-11, Part 7 and OMB Memo M-10-27, refers to a "major IT investment" also known as a "major acquisition" as an IT investment requiring special management attention because of its importance to the mission or function to the government; significant program or policy implications; high executive visibility; high development, operating, or maintenance costs; unusual funding mechanism; or is defined as major by the agency's [USDA's] Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC) process.

4. SCOPE

This DR applies to all USDA agencies and staff offices.

5. POLICY

The USDA CPIC process defines an IT investment as major if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Total life cycle Development, Modernization, and Enhancement (DME) investment costs

are greater than \$20M;

- b. Total operations and maintenance costs for the seven-year period – beginning two Prior Years (PY) from the budget year (PY-1 and PY), through the Budget Year (BY) plus four additional years (BY+1, BY+2, BY+3, BY+4) – are in excess of \$200M;
- c. The investment has been identified by the USDA Chief Information Officer (CIO) as critical. This may include investments that have one or more of the following attributes:
  - (1) Mandated by legislation or Executive Order;
  - (2) Require a common infrastructure investment;
  - (3) Considered strategic or mandatory-use investments;
  - (4) Differ from or greatly impact the Department's infrastructure, enterprise architecture or standards guidance; and
  - (5) Involve multiple-agency funding.

## 6. INQUIRIES

The point of contact for this policy is the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Deputy Chief Information Officer, Policy and Planning, the Associate Chief Information Officer (ACIO), Information Resource Management (IRM) and the Capital Planning and IT Governance Division (CPIGD).

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